



IFW

**PATENT APPLICATION**

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Keiji KASHIMA

Group Art Unit: 2871

Application No.: 10/655,582

Examiner: Z. QI

Filed: September 5, 2003

Docket No.: 123772

For: LAMINATED RETARDATION OPTICAL ELEMENT, PROCESS OF PRODUCING  
THE SAME, AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the June 2, 2005 Election of Species Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Species 1, Figures 1-3, with traverse. Applicant submits that at least claims 1, 2, 6, 12, 13 and 38-43 read on the elected species. Applicant further submits that at least claim 1 is generic to the species identified in the Election of Species Requirement.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of species 1 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid

unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Jacob A. Doughty  
Registration No. 46,671

JAO:JAD/tje

Date: June 30, 2005

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE  
AUTHORIZATION**

Please grant any extension  
necessary for entry;  
Charge any fee due to our  
Deposit Account No. 15-0461